MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 DECEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

Tripoli Evacuation — The evacuation of Palestinian fighters loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from Tripoli, which was to begin with the arrival of five Greek ships on 19 December, was postponed because of the Israeli Navy's continued bombardment of Palestinian positions in the area, Beirut radio announced. Meanwhile, all five Greek ships remained off Cyprus pending a decision by the French admiral onboard the aircraft carrier *Clemenceau*, who is to command the escorting French ships, on the timing of the departure, Nicosia radio stated. Beirut radio also reported that 200 men of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces were due in Tripoli on 18 December to escort 'Arafat's fighters to the ships, leaving Syrian forces responsible for security on the land.

Evacuation of Wounded — The first Palestinians to leave Tripoli, 190 wounded fighters, departed aboard an Italian hospital ship on 17 December, Beirut radio announced. The hospital ship offloaded its Palestinian passengers in Cyprus, from which 73 departed for Egypt and 19 for Yugoslavia, Nicosia radio disclosed, adding that 2 remained in Cyprus for medical treatment. MENA and TANJUG later confirmed the arrival by air of the wounded Palestinians who had been bound for Egypt and the SFRY.

Commenting on the withdrawal, PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman stated that the Greek ships will transport 1,000 fighters to Algeria, dropping 'Arafat and the members of his leadership off in Tunis en route and depositing the remaining approximately 3,000 in the YAR. In remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo, 'Abd ar-Rahman revealed that the pro-'Arafat forces will not leave their heavy weapons in Tripoli or hand them over to the Lebanese Islamic Unification Movement but reaffirmed that the weapons will not be transported aboard the Greek ships carrying the fighters. Meanwhile, 'Arafat told a press conference in Tripoli on 19 December that all heavy weapons would be left for the Lebanese Army, Beirut radio reported.

Israeli Shelling, Position — Israeli gunboats continued to shell Palestinian "targets" in Tripoli on 18 and 19 December, Jerusalem radio stated citing military spokesmen who reported "accurate hits." Beirut radio stated that two ships anchored in the port were hit on the 19th, one of which was sunk, while on 18 December the radio announced that the Israeli shells had hit a Greek ship, the first to arrive in preparation for the evacuation of 'Arafat and his men. Meanwhile, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio claimed that Israeli warplanes strafed Tripoli port on 18 December.

'Abd ar-Rahman stated that the bombardment "will not affect" the Palestinians' plans to leave Tripoli "as agreed upon." He also invited UN Security Council condemnation of the Israeli action and appealed to France and Greece to adopt "more decisive measures" to ensure the Palestinians' safety.

The Israeli shelling of Tripoli has "nothing to do" with the plans to evacuate 'Arafat's forces, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated during an interview with Vienna television. Responding to a question on the purpose of the Israeli blockade of the port city, Shamir affirmed that Israel "has not undertaken anything against the evacuation." Likewise, security sources cited by Jerusalem television asserted that Israel "will not stand in the way of the Greek ships." Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated during an interview with Jerusalem radio that the countries ready to assist in the evacuation should make their aid conditional on 'Arafat and his men laying down their arms and declaring that they will "no longer use the weapon of terror." Arens observed that "there is no doubt" that Israel is capable of preventing 'Arafat's departure.

Lebanon

Military Situation — The Israeli Air Force attacked "terrorist" bases in the Bhamdun area early on 19 December, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by IDF Radio. The Israeli pilots scored accurate hits and all planes returned safely to base, he added. A Syrian military spokesman cited by Damascus radio said the Israeli aircraft strafed a position and a hospital in Bhamdun but claimed that Syrian air defenses "intercepted" the raiders and forced them away. In an earlier statement carried by the radio, a Syrian military spokesman announced that U.S. warships shelled Syrian positions in Al-Matn on 18 December immediately after Syrian air defenses "confronted" two F-14's overflying the area and forced them to fly out to sea. Citing "reliable sources," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said 27 Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) gunmen were killed and 70 were wounded by U.S. shelling on 15 December.

The security situation was relatively calm in and around Beirut following the "comprehensive" new cease-fire agreement reached by the Security Arrangements Committee on 15 December, according to Beirut radio. However, the radio reported that Lebanese Army positions in several areas came under sniper fire on 18 December and Radio Free Lebanon said PSP forces resumed shelling the Army the following morning.

Two IDF soldiers were wounded and a local resident was killed on 18 December by a hand grenade attack in Sidon, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by IDF Radio. Correspondents cited by AFP said three Israelis were killed and three others wounded in the attack. The Israeli convoy opened fire, killing a Lebanese civilian and wounding three others.

Political Developments — The Syrian, Saudi, and Lebanese foreign ministers held detailed discussions on the Lebanese situation in order to create a suitable climate to make the forthcoming National Dialogue Conference a success, Syrian

Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam declared in a statement reported by Damascus television after two rounds of talks among the three ministers in Damascus. The three will meet again in Saudi Arabia early in January, he added, and will set a date for the National Dialogue Conference at the conclusion of their "current discussions."

Earlier, President Amin al-Jumayyil returned to Lebanon after unexpected talks in Libya with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Beirut radio reported. Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan subsequently stated in remarks broadcast by the radio that Al-Jumayyil's talks with Al-Qadhdhafi were "useful" and an important step toward "normalizing matters," even though the reasons for the freeze in Lebanese-Libyan relations "still exist." The withdrawal of Libyan forces from Lebanon will be included in future dialogue between the two countries, he said. Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported that the participants stressed their desire for cooperation and consultation and the need for "decisive solutions" at the local level in Lebanon.

Dayr al-Qamar, Airport — The evacuation of Christian refugees from Dayr al-Qamar continued over the weekend despite harassment from Druze militiamen, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, in accordance with the new cease-fire, Beirut International Airport reopened on 16 December, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Syrian Warnings — Syria "will be forced to reply" to U.S. fire and those who shoot down U.S. aircraft can "certainly" hit the *New Jersey*, Syria's *TISHRIN* declared in a commentary reviewed by Damascus radio. An earlier *TISHRIN* commentary reported by the radio warned that Syria has the means to remove "any U.S. naval unit from the battle" and predicted that the United States will be "surprised that Syria will perform miracles in defending itself."

Tripoli Reconciliation Plan — Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami's Northern Coordination Committee completed its plan for a reconciliation among the Lebanese factions in Tripoli, Karami announced in a statement reported by Beirut radio. The plan, which calls for complete freedom of political action and a joint committee to control all weapons, was endorsed during a meeting in Damascus, the radio added. For the first time, the meeting was attended by representatives of the pro-'Arafat Islamic Unification Movement in addition to those of the Communist Party and the Arab Democratic Party, according to the radio.

Kuwait Bombings

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn announced that 10 people have been arrested and have admitted to planning and carrying out the 12 December bombings in Kuwait. In a statement to KUNA, Husayn said that 12 members of the Islamic Call party were involved, including 7 Iraqis, 1 of whom drove the truck that crashed into the U.S. Embassy, and 3 Lebanese.

Tehran radio reported that during their investigations the Kuwaiti police "attacked" the head office supervising Iranian schools in Kuwait and arrested the office's director and three others. The Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry, where he was handed an official protest. The radio subsequently reported that the Kuwaiti police also attacked several schools, beat up several Iranian and Pakistani clergymen, and arrested two Iranian clergymen.

Libya

Characterizing President Reagan's call for other nations, particularly those in West Europe, to join the ban on the export of equipment to Libya as a "new terror campaign," a Tripoli radio commentary urged West Europeans to "think 1,000 times before adopting" this measure, because it would have repercussions in economic cooperation not only with Libya "but also with the whole Arab homeland."

Israel-Egypt

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a car parked in front of the Israeli Consulate in Alexandria on 15 December, but no one was injured and the culprit was arrested, Jerusalem radio reported, citing the Israeli consul in Alexandria. The radio also noted complaints by Egyptian diplomats in Tel Aviv that they and their cars had been victims of harassment, while *THE JERUSALEM POST* cited Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources as saying that Israel had promised to increase security precautions at the Egyptian Embassy in response to the complaints. According to the Egyptian weekly *OCTOBER*, also cited by AFP, a senior adviser to the Egyptian foreign minister refused an invitation to visit Israel, stating that he could not accept "under existing circumstances."

Iraq

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) kidnapped another three foreign workers in Iraq — an Italian, an Egyptian, and a Thai — just a few days after kidnapping three French nationals on 2 December, KDP Politburo member Idriss Barzani told AFP. Barzani revealed that his organization's demands for the release of the French workers had been softened to "details" on the 8,000 Iraqi Kurds reportedly expelled from their homes in August. The KDP had earlier demanded that the 8,000 be returned and that 57 Kurds sentenced to death be freed in order to secure the French nationals' release.

FBIS

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Gandhi on Reports Pakistan Preparing for War

BK171433 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The prime minister has said there are reports about Pakistan preparing for war but the possible threat to India is difficult to predict. Mrs Gandhi was speaking to newsmen at Shantiniketan today. She said the dangers of war are hovering all over the world and we are part of it.

The prime minister emphatically denied that India had done anything injurious to Pakistan; hence, their criticism, she said, makes their motives a suspect.

Cautioning against pressures from powerful elements, Mrs Gandhi said the country should remain united to resist such influences.

AFP Cites Proposal to Pakistan To Resume Talks

BK191343 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 19 (AFP) — India has proposed to Pakistan a resumption of discussions here in early January between the joint sub-commissions on information, travel and tourism as part of efforts by both governments to improve relations in all fields, a Foreign Office spokesman said today.

The proposal was conveyed to Pakistan Ambassador Riaz Piracha who was called to the Foreign Ministry by secretary in the Foreign Office K. Natwar Singh.

Mr. Singh also suggested to Mr. Piracha that the other sub-commissions dealing with cooperation in economic, trade and science and technology fields could meet in Pakistan later, the spokesman said.

Mr. Piracha agreed to convey the proposals to his government, the spokesman said.

The sub-commissions were established during the first meeting of the Indo-Pakistan joint commission held here earlier this year.

The Indian proposal follows a statement made by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Saturday that Pakistan was making preparations for war, though the possible threat to India was difficult to predict.

Answering questions from the press yesterday on reports that the United States was planning to deploy Pershing 2 missiles in Pakistan to counter the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, she said, "I do not know what the United States is going to do there. But Pakistan has already interfered a good deal in Afghanistan."

Gandhi Addresses Congress-I Conference in Madras

BK181619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Mrs Gandhi has appealed to the opposition parties not to harm the unity, integrity, and development of the country. She was addressing the concluding session of the 2-day southern regional Congress-I conference in Madras today. She said there had been opposition-ruled states in the past but there was no problem of cooperation in matters of national interest. However, in recent years a new attitude has grown which shows the opposition task as not merely opposition but obstruction. This is a dangerous feature, she said. In a democracy both the government and opposition have to share the responsibility. Elected governments must be allowed the opportunity to fulfill election pledges, she said.

Mrs Gandhi said there is nothing wrong in regionalism up to a point. One could be proud of regional culture, language, and history. But if this pride hits the nation's unity and integrity, it will be dangerous not only for the nation but for the region also. The states in the country are dependent on one another for progress. There has to be mutual cooperation among them. Similarly, the opposition should cooperate with the government in safeguarding communal harmony and national unity.

Addressing a public meeting in Madras today, she said communal harmony does not mean giving up one's religion. Instead, it means respecting the right of the other person to follow his own religion, Mrs Gandhi added.

Referring to India's role in helping Sri Lanka solve the ethnic problem, the prime minister said no word or act of ours should make the situation more difficult for the Tamils in that country. She said: It is a delicate situation, and we are constantly in touch with that country and doing our best in the matter.

Rao Leaves for Commonwealth Meeting on Cyprus

BK180909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, left New Delhi for New York this morning to attend the chosen group's meeting on Cyprus. Besides India, the other members of the group are Australia, Guyana, Zambia, and Nigeria. The secretary general of the Commonwealth, Dr Ramphal, is also taking part.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With Poland

BK171619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] India and Poland have agreed to expand cooperation in several areas, including shipbuilding, machine tools, electronics, coal mining, and chemical technology. A protocol signed in New Delhi today at the end of the meeting of the Indo-Polish joint commission says that the two countries will also explore the possibility of cooperation in other areas like food processing, agricultural and textile machinery, and research and environmental preservation. The protocol provides for cooperation in joint ventures of the third countries as well. The possibility of long-term trade agreements will also be examined.

AFP: CPI, CPI-M Trade Union Groups Propose Merger

BK161628 Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 16 (AFP) — A trade union group linked to the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) today proposed a merger with a labor coalition of the rival independent communists in what observers here said was a significant step forward in efforts to join the two parties.

The pro-Moscow communist All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) suggested the merger with the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) of the Independent Communist Party of India, Marxist (CPI-M), at the AITUC general conference now in session in Bangalore, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The CPI and the CPI-M, which is independent of both Moscow and Beijing, have fought bitterly for supremacy in the Indian communist movement since the undivided party split in 1964. The CPI-M broke away from the parent body over differences in both internal and international policy. But lately, both sides have begun raising the possibility of a re-merger into a single party.

Inderjit Gupta, general secretary of the AITUC and an important CPI leader, told the annual conference that the AITUC saw no objective reason why the two labor groups could not merge in keeping with certain mutually agreed principles, including class struggle, secularism and national unity, peace and anti-imperialism and international working class solidarity.

"We are prepared to sit down and discuss in fraternal spirit any other concrete suggestions which would help to advance the cause of trade union unity on a principled basis between the like-minded forces in our movement," he added.

The Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTU) of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress Party says it is the larger labor group in the country, with over 3 million members.

Latest figures put the AITUC and CITU in second and third place with an estimated 1.8 million and 1.6 million members respectively.

The CPI has been closely supporting Mrs. Gandhi's Congress Party for several years, providing one of the major points of contention with the CPI-M faction on the domestic front. But the pro-Moscow communists turned against the prime minister following her imposition of emergency rule from 1975-1977, becoming a bitter opponent of the ruling party.

Observers said this change in policy towards the Congress Party and Mrs. Gandhi opened the door to a rapprochement with the CPI-M.

Leaders of both parties, however, have denied reports they were ready to merge in the near future, saying there remained many differences to resolve before any formal reunification could be worked out. But they have agreed on the need for joint action on various issues.

Home Minister Discusses Punjab Solution

BK170330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] The home minister has reaffirmed the government's readiness for a solution to the Punjab problem. At a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee for his ministry in New Delhi today, Mr Sethi urged the Akali leadership to come up with a positive response to the efforts in this direction. He said the government is prepared for talks with the Akalis and their response is awaited.

Members pleaded for a political solution of the problem, reiterating that it cannot be dealt with purely as a law and order issue. Mr Sethi made it clear that the government is keen to reestablish a democratic setup in the state bringing president's rule to an early end. In this the government seeks the cooperation of all concerned.

Some members alleged that indiscriminate notices had been [put] into the Purnea and Katihar Districts of Bihar,requiring some people to establish their citizenship. Mr Sethi clarified that notices were issued by the Election Commission in cases where a person is required to prove his citizenship before his name is included in the voters list. He, however, agreed to deputy Home Ministry officials to study the situation.

In response to some other points raised by members, the home minister said that the government will see that nothing happens that might jeopardize communal harmony.

Akali Dal Chief Responds

BK171611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has alleged that the center is not sincere in solving the Punjab tangle. He was commenting on the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi's statement at a meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee yesterday that the doors for talks with the Akalis are open.

Akali Dal President Calls Urgent Meeting 21 Dec

BK181417 Hong Kong AFP in English 1404 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 18 (AFP) — The president of the Sikh political party Akali Dal today summoned an urgent meeting of party deputies, legislators and activists for December 21, touching off speculation that it might prove crucial to the future of the Sikh protest movement in Punjab State.

The meeting would review the 16-month-old movement spearheaded by the Akali Dal for more political and religious autonomy, said an announcement from the party headquarters at Amritsar in Punjab, quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI).

The agency said the Akali ranks considered the short-notice meeting significant in view of current infighting among Akali Dal factions, particularly between the extremist Babbar Khalsa bloc and the militant followers of Sikh leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Some political observers also linked the meeting to an ultimatum issued recently by Akali chief Sant Harchand Singh Longowal to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's federal government for acceptance of the Sikh demands by January 26 (India's Republic Day).

The Akali leadership might consider a line of action to be taken in case the ultimatum was ignored, the observers said.

Slaying of Punjab Police Official Reported

BK190942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Text] In Punjab, a police subinspector was shot dead by unknown persons at Guru Har Sahai in Ferozepore District last evening. Efforts are on to catch the culprits.

AFP Account

BK181625 Hong Kong AFP in English 1610 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 18 (AFP) — Police in troubled Punjab State were searching for three gunmen who shot dead a police officer in Guru Har Sahai town in late today, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

PTI reported that two of the three assailants sprayed at least 12 bullets at Sub-inspector Bishuramstood while he was in a local market, killing him instantly.

The assailants sped away on a high-powered motorcycle.

The police officer had been on a hit list of Sikh extremists for his alleged involvement torturing suspects during interrogation about cases of arson, sabotage and murder, PTI said.

A statewide police alert was issued following the daring murder, the latest in a series of violent incidents linked with the 16-month-old Sikh agitation for more religious and political autonomy in Punjab State.

Briefs

Sea Harriers Arrive — The first three Sea Harriers to join the Indian Navy arrived at a Navy base in Panaji today. The chief of the naval staff, Admiral O.S. Dawson, received the fighter aircraft. The Sea Harriers are being acquired to modernize the Navy and to increase its strike capability and air defense. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Dec 83 BK]

Accord With Netherlands — India and the Netherlands have agreed on bilateral technical cooperation. The agreement is initially for a period of 5 years and can be extended further. It contains the broad framework for the use of grants from the Netherlands in the form of experts, training, equipment, and other expenditure on mutually agreed research on technical projects. The technical cooperation agreement was concluded yesterday between the finance minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, and the visiting Netherlands minister for development cooperation, Madame Schoo. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Dec 83 BK]

Trade Talks With Japan — India and Japan agreed that there are favorable trends toward widening trade and economic relations between the two countries. An official release, issued at the end of the fourth round Indo-Japan trade talks in New Delhi, says the economic relations between the two countries have entered a new phase with the possibilities of collaboration involving sophisticated technology. This indicates a qualitative change. During their 2-day talks some concrete suggestions have been made for diversifying the trade relations. Setting up of a data bank has been suggested for providing access to technology facilities and collaboration arrangements in Japan. The Indian delegation expressed its concern at the discriminatory import policy being introduced in Japan in regard to jute fabric. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 83 BK]

Ayatollah Khomeyni Warns 'Enemies of Islam'

LD171442 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] Members of the commerce and distribution, investigative, and institutions commissions attached to the Prime Minister's Office met this morning with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the struggles of Sheykh Fazlollah Nuri and Ayatollah Kashani for the rule of Islam and to the poisonous atmosphere created by the enemies of Islam, which led to their defeat, the imam of the nation graciously said:

Now I want to give a warning to the gentlemen: The enemies of Islam have realized that they have not achieved anything through military attacks, economic blockades, and so on and are now busy creating a poisonous atmosphere and trying to implement their plan gradually.

Emphasizing the fact that America and the Soviet Union do not fear each other as much as they fear Islam, the leader of the Islamic Revolution graciously said: Now the situation is such that Islam has penetrated everywhere, from Pakistan to black Africa to the Soviet Union; there are cries of Islam everywhere by everybody. Therefore, they know that if they give Iran an opportunity, it may endanger their interests throughout the world. Regarding Iran, they cannot start with the clergy suddenly; that is why they are starting from the lower ranks. One hears them creating poisonous atmospheres against the government everywhere.

Referring to the difficulties facing the government due to the revolutionary conditions and the war and to the fact that if these difficulties existed in any country other than Iran the whole system would collapse while in Iran the government has managed to administer, the imam of the nation graciously said: They have started creating a poisonous atmosphere in order to destroy the government, then to continue with the president, the Majlis, and the clergy. Be alert! It is not for nothing that suddenly in bazaars, mosques, pulpits, and houses of the ulema in Qom, rumors are being spread and all rumors are the same. If you hear similar things everywhere, you must know that there are other hands involved and that this is not accidental.

Recalling the services rendered by the government and the fact that in spite of the difficulties caused by the world's enmity with the Islamic Revolution of Iran the government has prevented the situation from being disrupted, the founder of the Islamic Revolution of Iran graciously said: We, who are facing the enmity of all the world, must not attack the government. At present there are attacks against the government in the Majlis, in the presence of the ulema and in the bazaar. They ridicule the government in televised interviews; they ridicule the government in the gatherings they arrange, these gentlemen themselves are not aware. This gentleman himself is a very good chap; but 10 of these individuals who intend to create a poisonous atmosphere — the monarchists, opponents of the Islamic Republic, who came from the upper classes and want to enjoy themselves; the hypocrites organization, and the other parties with very good appearances — go to him and say Islam is being destroyed; Iran is becoming communist and so on and so forth; the gentleman believes them immediately. Oh dear, what's happening?

The imam of the nation emphasized: The situation now is not similar to what it was like in the times of Shaykh Fazlollah and Ayatollah Kashani. The enemies of Islam have realized that if the Islamic Republic grows, it will not allow them to have their interests; therefore, they earnestly intend to destroy this republic. If they overcome us this time they will not leave anything behind. If Islam is slapped here, it will not be able to raise its head ever again, unless something else happens in the world.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized: The fall of the government today is even harmful for the clergy and the Majlis. If the bazaar notices that the government has no time to do everything, it should help and cooperate. At present the government has wheat and rice in some places but there are not enough trucks to carry them. All the cities' ulema should decide to put trucks at the government's disposal so that the government can transport these goods. If problems are not solved, this should not be reason to put the government under pressure or to weaken and disable it.

Referring to the fact that it is not an issue of the Majlis, the government, or the judicial powers, but of Islam and that those who show enmity are enemies of Islam, the imam of the nation graciously said: If we do not join hands and are not together, they will throw us down to the ground. Therefore reason dictates that we tolerate the difficulties, which are fewer than those existing in the times of his holiness the messenger.

The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran graciously said: In international circles everybody talks against Islam. If we ourselves attack each other, what will happen then? The ulema must be aware that if somebody comes and nags they should not immediately be believed. The situation must not be such that every day you bring a minister, attack him and weaken the government. If you weaken the government, you will be weakened yourselves. Weakening the government is a prelude to weakening yourselves. At present an active political line is being pursued and you must be careful to preserve this government, this Majlis, and the Islamic Republic.

Imam Khomeyni graciously said: The gentleman writes: Do not pay tax. Do you see the ignorance? Today we need several millions for war expenditure; this cannot be provided from donations to the clergy. Donations to the clergy are only enough to manage seminaries. If there is some extra they give it to the government. If all of a sudden one says: Do not pay tax, give donations to the clergy; where do we get all these donations? There are so many individuals attacking the government and these gentlemen talk without thinking.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution emphasized: Somebody says something to the gentlemen and out of their goodness and good thinking they believe it. Whatever you are told, you attribute to corruption from the beginning. Today there is too much corruption and attributing it to decency is not the right thing to do. [as heard]

The imam of the nation graciously said: When I lived in Najaf,one of the hypocrites would come to me every day for a month and talk. I would listen to him. He also deceived the late Mr Taleqani and another member of the ulema and brought letters of recommendation from them to me. I realized he was too good a Muslim. We are not such good Muslims. I became suspicious of him and did not give any reply. He said: We are going to stage an armed uprising. I said: You cannot; they have been plotting since then and they are also present now; but since they cannot do anything they carry out this kind of mischief. They go to these gentlemen to do something to create noise, to attack somebody: not the clergy, not the Majlis, but somebody who is weaker than nobody else; they attack the government.

Referring to the propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran throughout the world, the leader of the Islamic Revolution graciously said: Something happened in Kuwait and they have announced that the perpetrator was an Iraqi. But they do not leave us alone. They say: Since they support Iran, it is Iran's work. All the world's oppressed support Iran.

Majlis Speaker Comments

LD181359 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the speech delivered by the imam of the nation yesterday, as the best guideline for maintaining unity and uniformity in the Islamic Republic of Iran, said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the eve of unity week, the remarks made by our esteemed leader, as always, provided the best guideline for maintaining our unity and uniformity. As is befitting a realistic and aware leader, the imam pointed out the sensitive issues that might damage the unity and uniformity of the Islamic Republic. We can see the manifestation of correct leadership in the life of our esteemed imam, without any exaggeration. The imam, like an expert physician, is observing us and society with keen eyes. Whenever he has deemed it necessary he has given us proper and beneficial guidelines and recommendations. May God not deprive this great and self-sacrificing nation of this prophet-like leadership. God willing, we will enjoy this vigilant leadership for many years to come.

On the eve of the elections, at a time when moves to deceive the public might have made some people point their finger at shortages resulting from the war and from the attack by our enemies, and at other natural side-effects of the revolution to attract the simple and pure hearts of the people in an effort to gain more votes, the imam's speech stopped this dangerous deviation. He cautioned us, the Majlis deputies, who have access to this tribune, he cautioned the Friday imams who have direct contact with the people, and he cautioned trade centers and bazaars which might have been disrupted by these evil people. He cautioned all those sitting behind curtains and trying to provoke simpleminded people with their secretive gestures and make them utter inaccurate statements. [Passage indistinct] I assure the imam of the nation that the Majlis deputies will act precisely according to these guidelines in their questions, in their preagenda speeches, and in their speeches outside the Majlis, in mosques, religious gatherings, and other places. The imam can rest assured in this respect with regard to the Majlis deputies and to the others addressed by the imam in his speech.

Finally, we pray to Almighty God to protect this great leader who is a holy blessing for the Islamic movement at this sensitive juncture and for this generation, this generation which has risen.

Radio Iran Reacts

GF171636 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Ayatollah Khomeyni vehemently attacked those clergymen of Qom and Ayatollah Golpayegani for issuing a ruling [fatwa] that people should not pay taxes in accordance to the principles of Islam. Khomeyni exhorted the Qom clergymen to abide by (?the rules) and to (?settle accounts) and not believe anything said to them.

In his speech at Jamaran today, Khomeyni castigated the city of Qom — the bazaars, the pulpits and mosques, and the clergymen of Qom — and accused them of fabricating lies against the government. Khomeyni called the clergmen's virulent castigation of the government a foreign conspiracy and attributed the issues discussed in Qom's mosques, bazaars, and pulpits against the government to the monarchists and opponents of the Islamic Republic.

Khomeyni asked the country's clergymen to contribute trucks to the government and admitted that the government does not have enough vehicles to transport foodstuffs to people, and the clergymen are obliged to provide the same.

Without mentioning the name of Ayatollah Golpayegani, Khomeyni said: The man says do not pay revenue. Can we provide the expenses of war from the imam's pocket? Khomeyni accused Ayatollah Golpayegani and other clergymen of speaking without thinking.

Resolution to UN on Israeli-U.S. Strategic Alliance

LD170759 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text] Washington, Dec. 16, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran Thursday proposed a resolution to the U.N. General Assembly on the widerange crimes of the U.S. and the Zionist regime in Lebanon. The resolution also touched upon the new conspiracies that the U.S. and the Zionist regime are hatching against the oppressed peoples of the region, by concluding the recent strategic cooperation agreement. It asked the U.N. to condemn the U.S. and Al-Quds occupying regime for concluding the recent military pact.

AFGHANISTAN

Karachi Paper Reports Mujahidin Activities

GF191010 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 2 Dec 83 PP 1, 10

[Excerpts] The Afghan mujahidin during operations in Qandahar Province killed 21 Karmal soldiers, destroyed armored vehicles, and set fire to a gasoline storage tank. The mujahidin also attacked four government posts near 'Id mosque prayer ground in Qandahar, killing six Karmal soldiers including two Parcham party members.

The mujahidin on the same day attacked a position in (Falqam) in Dand Subdivision of Qandahar Province and killed 15 Karmal soldiers. The mujahidin lost three guerrillas during the fight.

The mujahidin on 14 November attacked a place called (Sarpora), set fire to a gasoline storage tank, and destroyed one government armored vehicle.

Battle Over Highway

GF191046 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 8 Dec 83 PP 1,8

[By *JASARAT* correspondent]

[Excerpt] Peshawar, 7 Dec — The mujahidin are at present bitterly engaged in a battle with Karmal-Soviet soldiers on the Jalalabad-Towr Kham Highway. The Soviets are making an attempt to gain control of the highway which the mujahidin had cut on 1 December. The mujahidin have pushed the Soviet soldiers back from Towr Kham which they had recently seized.

At present the Soviet-Karmal soldiers are fighting 1 km from the Pakistan-Afghan border. The Soviets have lost three tanks and two armored vehicles in the battle. Three mujahidin and 15 villagers were also killed during the battle. Six wounded mujahidin were moved to a hospital in Peshawar.

The Afghan Government troops captured 700 people from (Daghoi) village on the border and have taken them to Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, according to an AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS report the mujahidin killed Major General Abdul Quddus Rashid in the Kabul locality of Wazirabad Mainah.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Curfew Relaxed for Holy Day 18 Dec

BK171843 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1100 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Tomorrow is the holy day of the prophet's birthday. The holy day will be observed with due regard and religious fervor and enthusiasm throughout the Muslim world, including Bangladesh.

An official notification in Dhaka today said that for the convenience of those offering prayers on the occasion of the holy birthday of the prophet, there will be no curfew tonight. The curfew will remain effective as usual from 000 to 0500 from tomorrow.

Briefs

Asian Bank Loan — The Asian Development Bank has approved loan totaling $6.45 crore for two specific projects in Bangladesh. Of this, $3.70 crore is for an irrigation project with the objective of raising the foodgrain production from 1.30 crore metric tons in 1981 to 1.35 crore metric tons in 1985. The second loan of $2.75 crore is for health and family planning programs. [Excerpt] [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 83 BK]

Increase Growth Rate — The annual report of Bangladesh Bank says gross domestic product [GDP] of the country increased by 3.72 percent during the last financial year as compared to the previous year. The GDP growth was attributed largely to the agricultural sector where production increased by 4.73 percent last year as against the decline of 0.62 percent during the previous year. In addition, the sectors which showed significant growth were coal and gas, transport, and trade. The report said during the period food grain production was higher at 15.3 million metric tons. The increase was 6.56 percent. It says a sizable surplus was (?recorded in) the country's balance of payment during the period and the foreign exchange reserve also showed a significant increase. In the industrial sector, the production performance showed an increase of 9.4 percent. The report said the overall performance of the economy of the country during the year showed some improvement. [Text] [Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 13 Dec 83 BK]

Export Earnings — Dhaka, Dec 18 BSS — Bangladesh's total export earnings during the past twelve years exceeded taka 99 billion (about five billion dollars). In dollar terms, the export earnings increased by 160 percent from taka 271 crore (about 250 million dollars), according to exchange rate prevailed at that time in 1972-73 to taka 1,616 crore (about 350 million dollars) in 1982-83, according to the statistic available with the Export Promotion Bureau [EPB], the government agency rendering assistance to the exporters, the total exported goods since independence up to October of the current year amounted to taka 99.8 billion. EPB statistics shows that of the total exported goods, the manufactured commodities amounted to 65 percent and the rest were primary commodities. The export target for the current fiscal year has been fixed at taka 1,750 crore (about 700 million dollars), and till October the export earnings registered taka about 600 crore, which is over taka one hundred twenty crore more than the comparable period of last year. Of the manufactured goods exported during the period under study, jute goods had the lion's share of taka 4,543 crore, followed by leather (taka 823 crore). The share of raw jute was taka 1,915 crore, followed by frozen food, tea and agricultural produce. [Text] [Dhaka BSS in English 0650 GMT 18 Dec 83 BK]

Disclosing this to IRNA, the permanent representative of the Islamic Republic to the U.N., Seyed Rajaie-Khorassani said that probably most of the reactionary countries would, as usual, not voie in favour of this proposed resolution. However, added he, this will clarify everyone's stance in this regard.

The text of the resolution proposed by Iran to the U.N. is as follows:

The Islamic Republic of Iran, having considered the item entit led: The Situation in Middle East, would like to draw the attention of the delegates, to the recent developments in the Mideast which are occurring as a result of the strengthening of strategic alliance between Israel and the United States of America. It furthermore expresses alarm at the fact that this alliance is aimed directly at threatening the inalienable right of all the peoples of the region to independence, and sovereignty over their territories and natural resources, and needless to say it is convinced that this alliance increases the aggressive potential of Israel against the states of the region and constitutes a serious threat against international peace and security as demonstrated by the recent U.S.-Israel coordinated aggression in the region.

1 - The Islamic Republic considers the strategic alliance between "Israel" and the United States of America as a factor contributing to the escalation of tension and aggravating of the situation in the [word indistinct] East, leading to further undermining of international peace and security,

2- It condemns the recent U.S.-"Israel" coordinated aggression in the region as well as any attempts to use force or threat of use of force by "Israel" and the United States as a result of the strategic alliance, against the states of the region. It also condemns the signatories of the alliance use of force aimed at destroying the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable rights in their homeland,

3- The Islamic Republic of Iran requests the secretary general to prepare, with the assistance of competent experts, a comprehensive study regarding the negative short term and long term effects of the strategic alliance between "Israel" and the United States of America and the Middle East in general and the Palestinian people in particular,

4- The Islamic Republic of Iran further requests the secretary general to seek the views of member states and the negative consequences of the alliance, and report any replies received to the 39th session of the General Assembly,

5- Requests the inclusion in the provisional agenda of its 39th session, item entitled "The Negative Consequences of the Strategic Alliance between "Israel" and the United States."

Kuwaiti Police Action Against Iranians Protested

LD181141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] The Kuwait police 2 days ago attacked and searched the main office supervising Iranian schools in Kuwait and arrested the supervisor of Iranian schools in Kuwait, together with three other people. Following the savage act carried out by the Kuwaiti police, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran yesterday was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and given a protest over this hostile action.

'Continuing Mistreatment' Reported

LD181856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Kuwait security agents are continuing their mistreatment of Iranians residing in Kuwait. Reports from there indicate that, following the savage attack by Kuwaiti police on [word indistinct] Iranian schools and the arrest of four Iranians a few days ago, Kuwait security officials attacked another Iranian school in Kuwait and, having beaten up several Iranian and Pakistani clergymen, arrested two Iranian clergymen.

Moreover, during the past few days and in the wake of mistreatment of Iranian workers, Kuwaiti police arrested about 10 Iranian workers in 'Abbasiyah bazaar. Following a series of investigations and tortures, five were then set free. However, the other five are still under arrest.

Khamene'i Sermon Refers to 'Latest Iraqi Crimes'

LD161322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the advent of "the week of unity," "the day of unity between the clergy and the students," and the martyrdom anniversary of militant clergyman Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Mofatteh, millions of Muslim compatriots throughout the country today held the political-religious ceremonies of the glorious Friday prayers.

Crowds of heroic people, who are always present on the scene, participated in the powerful Friday prayer ritual at Tehran University. They held this eternal Mohammadan ritual under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, Friday imam of Tehran.

At the beginning of the second sermon, referring to the latest crimes committed by the Zionist Iraqi regime and its attack on the residential areas of our country's cities, the Tehran Friday imam said: [Begin recording] I offer my condolences over the savage and brutal attacks carried out by thosewielding power in the Iraqi regime against our civilians and our safe and peaceful cities —against Dezful, Andimeshk, Ramhormoz, Behbehan, Ilam, and Nahavand— to the families of the martyrs, the people of those cities, the holy imam of the nation,the entire Iranian nation, and all Muslim nations. These attacks were carried out in the past few days; as a result, a number of our brothers and sisters were martyred or wounded.

When a war reaches this stage, its outcome and results are clear.

Soldiers fight on the battlefield; usually each government tries to tell the people of the other country that it has no war against them, but it is at war only with their government; and when the war reaches the stage that a regime directly attacks women, old

men, sick people, schoolchildren, cities, houses, and shops, it means that that regime is not only fighting the other country's government or army but it is at war with that country's entire nation. The result of such a war is clear. When there is a confrontation in which, on one side, an imposed regime and, on the other, a nation face one another, it will end only with the destruction of that imposed regime.

I hereby declare that we see no compromise or peace with thosewho started this war, who are today confronting our people in such a savage manner. This war was imposed on us; it has been going on for more than 3 years and is devouring people and cities in such a way. There is only one way: — The ruling Iraq regime today must be destroyed for the preservation of peace and maintainance of security in the region. [chanting of slogans]

I declare to those in charge and involved in the world conspiracy against us, that is, the administrators of the U.S. policy and countries like America, from here and from among you people that in spite of your wish, our people are not tired of this war. [chanting]

In every corner of this country, there is a martyr who like a beacon is shining on people's lives and charting their path. I assure you, bereaved brothers and sisters in the cities mentioned earlier, that as always, as we have said and acted in the past, this time we shall also, God willing, reply to this treachery, foul action, and shabby and disgraceful crime on the battlefronts. [chanting; end recording]

'Conference on Saddam's Crimes' Opens

GF171602 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA — The conference on (Iraqi ruler) Saddam's crimes was opened here at 09:00 a.m. Saturday by the spokesman for the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Hakim.

Some 110 political, religious and judicial personalities from all over the world are taking part at the conference, opened with recitation of verses from holy Koran.

Ayatollah Jannati, a theologian member of the Council of Guardians, President Khamene'is advisor Mostafa Mirsalim, Political Undersecretary at Foreign Ministry Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam and a number of other military and civilian high-ranking officials were also present.

Representatives of some 32 countries are participating at the conference.

Speakers Cited

GF181624 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — Speaking in the second day of the ongoing conference on Saddam's crimes here today, Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Mahdavi-Kani, secretary general of the Tehran combatant ulema society, said that Saddam was not only a criminal but also the cause of corruption and crimes. He has carried out numerous crimes against both nations of Iran and Iraq as well as the Muslim nations of the region, he told the conference.

Addressing the seminar which opened here Sunday attended by some 110 political, religious and judicial personalities from 32 countries, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said that a large number of ulema of the Najaf theological center have been martyred by the ruling regime of Iraq because of having defended Islam.

He further added that after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, the Iraqi Government was the first one to create troubles for Iran so as to prevent Iran's post-revolution reconstruction. Is this the reward of an oppressed nation which has stood against the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., that a neighbouring country which claims to be Islamic to create such problems for it? asked he.

Commenting on the underlying reasons for the Iraqi imposed war, now in its fourth year, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani said that Iraq had planned for the war after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran did not have any aggressive designs towards other countries. On the contrary after the revolution the period of military service was decreased to only one year, a large number of military personnel were retired and military purchases were cancelled.

While Iran was doing all this, Iraq was preparing for the war, he added. At a time when Iran had expelled more than 40,000 American military advisors, had closed off monitoring facilities and had called off its military attaches abroad, Iraq called its reserve forces to service and installed military devices on the Iran-Iraq border.

At the end of his speech, Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani stressed that all these proved that Iraq was preparing itself to damage the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Another speaker of the conference was the secretary general of the Islamic union of the Nigerian youth, (Najmuddin Shavvali), who said that Saddam attacked Iran to implement the plans of the U.S. Government. Furthermore, the Iraqi forces with the support of international imperialism had been bombarding the civilian areas of Iran, thereby claiming lives of Iranian people.

He also condemned the Iraqi aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Referring to the destruction of the Iraqi border city of Panjwin by the Iraqi regime, he said that Saddam in serving his masters and suppressing the uprising of the Muslim people of Iraq, did not refrain from committing any crime.

One of the relatives of the late Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr called on the participants in the conference to expose crimes of Saddam to the world public opinion and make the international organisations to break their silence on this issue. The late Ayatolah Mohammad Baqer Sadr was martyred by the Iraqi regime as part of the ruthless campaign of the regime against Muslim ulema.

The last speaker of the morning session was an Afghan Islamic revolutionary figure, Ali Mazari, who said since the main elements behind crimes of Saddam and other criminals of the world, were the two superpowers, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., the conference should (?have) investigated crimes of these superpowers.

Mazari then quoted the late scholar, martyr Ayatollah Morteza Motahari, as saying that although imperialism and Marxism may apparently oppose each other in fact they were like the two legs of a pair of scissors in cutting the roots of Islam.

Musavi Affirms Determination To Continue War

LD171916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Excerpts] Several deputies and independent commanders of combat units, supply units, services and commanders of training and cultural centers of the Ground Forces, accompanied by Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi, commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, were received this evening by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

The prime minister referred to the fact that the outcome of the war with Iraq will decide the fate of a great many enslaved and deprived nations. He said it is not the country's physical might which has displayed the crushing and profound effects of the Islamic Revolution to the world, rather it is the power of faith that gives power to the Islamic Republic. The prime minister said: "To attribute the region's revolutionary and Islamic movement to Iran, despite the lack of direct interference by the Islamic Republic Government in events, demonstrates the global arrogance's (?fear) of our revolution.

Concluding his remarks, the prime minister noted the need for the nation and the government to support the army and all combative forces in order to continue the war until final victory. He added: Enjoying sufficient strength and conviction, the government is capable of organizing this war until final victory is achieved. Our nation is finding all its hopes in the battlefronts; you too should advance with unity and strength and speed up this valuable victory.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,575

LD161737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,575 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, on the border fronts in our country's northwest, our forces opened fire on enemy positions and bases, as a result of which six bases of the Saddamist forces were completely annihilated. In addition, as a result of our units' fire on enemy positions in the Piranshah, Hajj 'Umran, and Sar Dasht operational regions, the activities of the enemy's engineering equipment and troop movements were halted; trucks full of personnel, 1 engineering vehicle, 2 observation posts, and several entrenchments of the Iraqi infantry forces were destroyed; and 50 Saddamists were killed.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran, Ilam, and other southern regions, the exchanges of fire between our units and those of the enemy continued all along the front line. Our combative units while defending the areas under their protection, dispatched patrol groups, ambushed the enemy, and opened fire on enemy positions, thus foiling the activities and movements of the Saddamist mercenaries. In the exchanges of fire on the banks of the Arvand Rud, the combatants of Islam returned enemy fire and, by opening fire on enemy positions and fortifications, silenced enemy fire, destroyed at least 13 foxholes and slit trenches, and killed about 45 enemy troops.

Yesterday, as a result of long-range weapon fire, the enemy damaged three houses in Abadan. Also, several Iraqi planes bombed the town of Ilam yesterday afternoon and caused damages and casualties.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,576

LD171715 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,576 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, exchanges of fire continued in the operational zones of Piranshahr, Hajj 'Umran, and Sar Dasht. As a result of firing by our artillery units, two enemy tanks and a command vehicle were destroyed and one of the Saddamists' motor pools sustained 50 percent damage. More than 100 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded. In the operational zone facing Marivan, our forces opened fire on four enemy concentration points, as a result of which a number of the aggressors were killed, 2 enemy trucks were destroyed, and an ammunition dump and about 50 enemy entrenchments were set on fire.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, exchanges of heavy weapons fire continued and our forces, while defending the regions under their protection, destroyed an enemy vehicle, a number of foxholes and trenches, and part of a motor pool. Yesterday, firing by our forces inflicted heavy damage on a military building on the other side of the Arvand Rud and a number of personnel in the building were killed.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan came under sporadic fire from enemy long-range weapons, as a result of which three houses, a shop, and a hospital received some damage.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,577

LD181712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Communique No 1,577 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The conditions on the fronts of the imposed war are brought to the attention of the dear compatiots. Exchanges of artillery and heavy arms fire continued yesterday on all the operational fronts between the mighty combatants of Islam and the Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq. On the Piranshahr fronts, while defending their positions, our forces opened fire on Iraqi positions and supply points, preventing enemy vehicle movements, silencing enemy fire, destroying a supply bridge, a 120-mm mortar, and more than four trenches, and killing or injuring about 30 enemy personnel. In the Marivan border region, our mighty combatants kept enemy movements under control, set fire to an Iraqi command post, destroying most of it and killing or wounding a number of its personnel.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts and on the southern fronts, the combatants of Islam continued strengthening their defensive positions. By performing defensive operations, dispatching patrol groups, and opening artillery and heavy arms fire, they kept enemy movements under observation, halted enemy fire, disrupted enemy engineering, position, and fortification activities and, on every front, destroyed enemy positions along with quantities of arms and ammunition and killed a number of enemy personnel. The exchange of fire was more intense in the Dasht-e Zahab and Mehran regions.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, Gendarmerie combatants returned enemy fire, destroying a number of enemy trenches and foxholes on the other side of the Arvand Rud, maintaining full control over their defensive positions and inflicting losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces.

Last night and yesterday, Abadan as usual was brought under heavy weapons fire by the Ba'thist criminals of Iraq, resulting in damage to a number of houses. [Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Tudeh Party Members Trial Continues

LD171146 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, the open trial of the second group of members of the underground military network of the spying and defunct Tudeh Party continued at 1015 this morning at the Islamic Revolution court of the Armed Forces, chaired by Mr Reyshahri.

In today's session, while explaining the contacts between this party's members and officials from the Soviet Embassy, Nureddin Kianuri said: We had contact with officials of the Soviet Embassy in many ways, one of which was through a backup by the name of Mr Jahangiri. Completing his explanations, he said: The Soviet officials told us to appoint somebody to contact them so that if at some time we did not manage to make contact with them in the usual way we could use this method.

Regarding the contents of letters exchanged between him and the Soviet Embassy officials and the details of these contacts, Kianuri then made some remarks.

Then Mohammad Mahdi Partovi, in charge of the military branch of the organization, talked about this issue: I would put the information we gained at the disposal of Kianuri and I am not aware of how he used this information. He also made some remarks about the details of the contacts between the Soviet officials and the party's liaison officers.

After these explanations, the fourth accused, Air Force Major Saber Zafar-Heydari, alias Mohajer, said: In spite of military orders, I started making contacts with the party in 1980-81. He added: I consider myself guilty and I deserve punishment and will not defend myself. Continuing his remarks, the accused admitted the charges against him and explained the classified military information he used to pass on to the party.

Session Ends 18 Dec

LD181246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Regarding investigations into the charges leveled at members of the secret military organization of the defunct spying Tudeh Party in connection with spying activities and treason aiming at toppling the regime, the trials of the members of the second branch of the secret military organization of the Tudeh Party in the Islamic Revolution Court of the army, chaired by Mr Reyshahri, ended today.

According to our correspondent, at today's court session, Shahrokh Jahangiri, responsible for the military branch, said in reply to remarks made by one of the accused, Saber Zafar-Heydari: He put a special classified book at our disposal for a few hours and we photocopied it. We pointed out to him the importance of observing procedures of secrecy and pretending to be religious even among members of one's own family. Then as his last defense, Zafar-Heydari said: I accept my mistakes and bow to the court and accept its verdict.

According to this report, in the continuation of today's court session another of the accused called 'Abbas Hasheminezhad said: After the imam's message, I was aware that I was doing wrong and felt ashamed.

Then Mirza'i, another of the accused, spoke in his confession about the classified information regarding shipping in the Persian Gulf, which he used to report.

Following the remarks made by the accused, the prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution court of the Army said: These people plotted to overthrow the Islamic Republic, according to the clear confessions made by their leaders. They acquired arms and ammunition for this purpose and were quite aware of what they were doing. He added: Basically, in any organization higher ranking members have detailed information and the lower ranks

have access to a summary of the information. So the claim is not to have had detailed information is not enough for acquittal; rather, it only shows that the extent of their involvement in the organization has been limited and interorganizational secrets have been guarded.

At the end of today's session of the court, Partovi, official in charge of the secret military organization, who was present as a witness, said in connection with Mirza'i's statement: I did not pass a written report of the information given to us by Mr Jahangiri about naval reports, since more detailed information in this respect was provided by Navy Commander 'Afzali. He added: Members of the secret organization were all aware of the nature of the organization in which they were involved, because the points raised made it clear to them that they were not just ordinary party members.

The court session ended at noon.

Soviet Reaction to Tudeh Trial Viewed

LD161516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 16 Dec 83

[From weekly "Review of Foreign Radios" program]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As the trial of Soviet spies in Iran continues, the loudspeakers affiliated to the East continue to create a great deal of deviationist noise and clamor, hoping to divert world public opinion from the shattering confessions of these spies which, in fact, reveal the hypocritical and two-faced policies of the Kremlin.

Before we elaborate on the reactions of the mass media of the East and the West toward these confessions, it should be pointed out that in view of the extent of the subservience of the traitorous leaders of the Tudeh Party toward the communist Government of the Soviet Union and in view of the extremely valuable intelligence matters which the members of that party put at the disposal of Soviet espionage organizations, one should not expect Moscow radio or other radios which follow Moscow's line not to mourn this great lose and not to chant dirges in a loud voice.

In this connection, one of the nonsense-prattling organizations affiliated with Moscow radio said: [Begin recording] Dr Kianuri's confessions which have been shown on Islamic Republic of Iran television have been extracted by means of force and torture and by means of physical and psychological shocks. [end recording]

Moscow radio itself in this connection commented: —[Begin recording] Concerning the so-called confessions of some of the arrested members of Iran's Tudeh Party in front of television cameras it should be said that they have been forced under torture to make these confessions. [end recording]

In view of the reasons given above, the lamentations of Eastern media are understandable. However, what is strange is that the same nonsensical talk is repeated by Western media, who in their propaganda pretend to be each other's adversaries.

The truth is that we did not wish to increase the bereavement of the mourners by beating these corpses. However, unfortunately, continuing their attempts to support their spies, they uttered so much nonsense that even their own trained agents felt obliged to speak in Iran's rehabilitation centers and to mock their treasonous and lying masters, saying: [Begin Kianuri recording] The other issue to which I wanted to refer here is that in prison we have heard, and once I heard it on some foreign radios when they were being broadcast, that apparently the confessions of the Tudeh Party members and leaders were made under the effect of drugs and under pressure from American, British, and Mossad experts and that they have been subjected to unnatural and inhumane pressures. I want to affirm with complete clarity that according to what I have personally witnessed my first interview was completely sincere. It was mainly the reassertion of certain facts which have been proved by undeniable and incontrovertible evidence. I merely repeated those facts in complete sincerity, and my present interview is also given under no pressure whatsoever. On the contrary, I am grateful for the kindness of our jailers and those who are dealing with us. Their treatment toward us is extremely humane from every point of view. In practice, here we experience the remarks of Imam Khomeyni that one should act in a humane and Islamic manner even toward the guilty individuals. [end recording]

Yes, the commentators of Moscow radio, who would have never imagined that their well-trained agents after having come face to face with realities and having been confronted with incontrovertible truths in rehabilitation centers — or in fact in training centers of the Islamic Republic of Iran — would become so repentent and would surrender in such a way, after hearing these confessions from their first-grade mercenaries, they found it prudent to remain silent and to adopt a waiting attitude. This is why since those confessions from their first-grade mercenaries they found it prudent to remain silent and to adopt a waiting attitude. This is why since those confessions until just before their trial they made no comments on these issues. However, after the trials started and when new examples of the treasons of that unfaithful neighbor of Iran were divulged, they could not keep quiet any longer and once again they started their dirges and repeated their former talks with slight changes.

The painful sighs which are being uttered by these mercenaries who have sold themselves to the aliens reveal the depth of the pain being felt by the spy masters about the revealing confessions of some of their longest-trained agents.

Another major change which has come about in the Eastern propaganda lines after the confession of Soviet spies in Iran is their changed position on the war. In the past, the Eastern mass media either said nothing on this topic and were content to send deadly missiles, or they referred to both Iran and Iraq as being anti-imperialist. Ignoring the facilities which they had put at the disposal of the mad men of Baghdad to continue war and bloodshed, in a hypocritical way they condemned the term war while praising peace; trying, on the one hand, to please their mercenary in Baghdad and, on the other, continuing the propaganda line which they had adopted at that time, namely, defending Iran's so-called "anti-imperialist revolution." At the same time, they did not want to endanger the position of their agents in Iran through their propaganda.

In any case, when their spies were trapped, Communist propagandists followed the position of Western propagandists and, in unison with them, in order to divert world public opinion concerning the frightful crimes which are being committed by insane Saddamists against the Muslim Iranian and Iraqi nations, they resorted to the repetitive and sickening show concerning Saddam's peace proposals.

As mentioned above, the Kremlin's loudspeakers in unison with Zionist-imperialist media portray the criminal Saddam as the only peace champion. Even if such propaganda deceives a small number of people in other countries and diverts their attention from the continuous crimes of Baghdad's fascist rulers and their Eastern and Western masters, what are your answers to the valiant and ever-on-the-scene Iranian nation who before hearing these vile distortions heard the frightful din of missiles exploding in various corners of the residential, nonmilitary areas of their Islamic homeland, missiles which have been presented by you cunning super-rats to Iraq? Who is answerable for the innocent blood of old men and women and nursing infants of this Islamic homeland? Do you think that with these satanic deceits you will be able to hide your frightful crimes? Do you think that with such noise and clamor you will be able to divert world public opinion from your deceitful policies which are clearly and openly revealed to the world in the confessions of your spies? Never.

The organizers of Moscow radio emphatically want to pretend that there has been no question of spying. To prove this claim, in a foolish way, like ostriches, they bury their heads under northern snow and say: Have our agents held any governmental positions so as to be able to provide Soviet authorities with military and political intelligence?

Another ludicrous point which Moscow's commentators try to cunningly propagate is that they claim that the Soviet Union has never interfered in Iran's internal affairs and has always respected Iran's sovereignty.

Even if there are no other documents and evidence for repeated Soviet interference in Iran and even if our nation ignores the shattering confessions of the Soviet spies about that country's continuous interference in Iran's internal affairs, which have been broadcast on the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is this incessant support of the Soviet Government for these spies not clear evidence of their overt interference in the internal affairs of our country? Only the wise know the answer.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Leaves for Africa

GF181716 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — An Iranian Foreign Ministry delegation headed by Muhammad Lavasani, the political director for Afro-Arab countries left here today for a tour of a number of African countries.

The delegation will visit Mali, Niger, Mauritania, Guinea, Upper Volta and Benin where Lavasani would convey messages of Iran's foreign minister, Dr. Velayati to the high ranking officials of the said countries.

The tour is aimed at expanding relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the countries to be visited and talks will be held on further cooperation in economic fields. The Iranian delegation will also make the preliminary arrangements for opening embassies in some of the countries named above.

Joint Military Headquarters Praises Kurds

GF181711 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — A joint military headquarters had praised members of the ulema in Kordestan Province of Iran as well as Iran's Kurds and Muslim peshmergas for having fulfilled a principal role in consolidating the Muslim people of Iran against their internal and external enemies.

In a communique published here today the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Military Headquarters said that at a time the enemies of the Islamic Revolution and the imperialist countries meant to sow the seeds of discord in the province, the Muslim people of the province, following the sublime example of their ancestors consolidated their ranks and by laying down their lives safeguarded the values of the Islamic Revolution.

The headquarter which published the communique on the second day of the unity week (December 17-December 23) also expressed its felicitations to the Muslim people of Iran in anticipation of the anniversary of the birth day of Prophet Mohammad (SAW).

Khomeyni Receives Chief of Staff, Friday Imams

LD181358 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Ayatollah Seyyed Ruhollah Khatami and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahdi Yasrebi, the imam's representatives and the Friday imams of Yazd and Kashan; Brigadier General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the family of martyr Dr Mohammad Mofatteh; and Seyyed Reza Zavareh'i, Tehran Majlis deputy, were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.